

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claim 12, AMEND claims 1, 6 and 9, and ADD new claim 13-15 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An integrated document management system comprising:
a storage unit which stores therein a document database comprising a plurality of documents that are files together forming a hierarchical structure comprising an upper hierarchy layer and a lower hierarchy layer ranked below the upper hierarchy layer where document files, each containing a document, in the lower hierarchy are referenced above in the upper hierarchy layer, where the structure is defined with hypertext described in an extensible markup language (XML);

a management information database comprising management information comprising an XML file defining the hierarchical structure by indicating a relation between a document in the upper hierarchy layer and a document in the lower hierarchy layer, a document type definition file describing information on a version number of each document, and a document style sheet file defining a style of each document, where the document in the upper hierarchy layer is separate and distinct from the document in the lower hierarchy layer;

a server connected to said storage unit and provided with a manager of the documents;
a client connected via a network to said server and retrieves together, based on the management information, by accessing said server, both the document in the upper hierarchy layer and the document in the lower hierarchy layer each having a specified version number, from the document database; and

a printer connected to the client, the printer making a hard copy of a document displayed at the client;

wherein the printer makes the hard copy of the document displayed at the client, including overlaid predetermined characters, in response to a tag being included in the management information which instructs to overlay the predetermined characters on the document displayed at the client, when copying is selected at the client, when the document is

determined to be printed according to importance thereof, and when the management information includes a tag.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The integrated document management system according to Claim 1, wherein the management information includes information indicating a collection of a plurality of documents in a same layer and each version number of the plurality of documents, and said client retrieves, based on the management information, by accessing from said server the collection of the plurality of documents in the same layer, the documents retrieved each having a specified version number, from the document database.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The integrated document management system according to Claim 1, wherein said server registers, when a document registered in the document database is updated, the updated document in the document database, and also updates the version number information in the management information related to the document.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The integrated document management system according to Claim 3, wherein said client sends via the network to said server retrieval information for a document that has been retrieved, and said server sends via the network to said client, when a document corresponding to the retrieval information is updated, updating information related to the document updated.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The integrated document management system according to Claim 1, wherein the management information includes information related to a security level corresponding to each of the plurality of documents and said server permits or inhibits retrieval of the document according to the security level.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A document retrieval device used in an integrated document management system having

a storage unit which stores therein a document database comprising a plurality of documents that are files together forming a hierarchical structure comprising an upper hierarchy layer and a lower hierarchy layer ranked below the upper layer hierarchy where document files, each containing a document, in the lower hierarchy are referenced above in the upper hierarchy layer, where the structure is defined with hypertext described in an extensible markup language (XML);

a management information database comprising management information comprising an XML file defining the hierarchical structure by indicating a relation between a document in the upper hierarchy layer and a document in the lower hierarchy layer, a document type definition file describing information on a version number of each document, and a document style sheet file defining a style of each document, where the document in the upper hierarchy layer is separate and distinct from the document in the lower hierarchy layer; and

a server connected to said storage unit and provided with a manager of the documents, said document retrieval device retrieving together, based on the management information, both the document in the upper hierarchy layer and the document in the lower hierarchy layer in a specified version number from the document database;

wherein the management information includes a tag which instructs to overlay predetermined characters on the document, such that a printer at a client makes a hard copy of the retrieved document including the overlaid characters, when copying is selected at the client, when the document is determined to be printed according to importance thereof, and when the management information includes the tag.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The document retrieving device according to Claim 6; wherein the management information includes information indicating a collection of a plurality of documents in a same layer and a version number of each of the plurality of documents, and a plurality of documents on the same layer in a specified version number are retrieved from the document database based on the management information, by accessing from said server the collection of the plurality of documents.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The document retrieval device according to Claim 6, wherein the management information includes information related to a security level corresponding to each of the plurality of documents, and the documents are retrieved from the document database according to a permission of retrieval corresponding to the security level.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium storing document retrieval instructions used in an integrated document management system, which, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to function as:

a storage unit which stores therein a document database comprising a plurality of documents that are files together forming a hierarchical structure comprising an upper hierarchy layer and a lower hierarchy layer ranked below the upper hierarchy layer where document files,

each containing a document, in the lower hierarchy are referenced above in the upper hierarchy layer, where the structure is defined with hypertext described in an extensible markup language (XML);

a management information database comprising management information comprising an XML file defining the hierarchical structure by indicating a relation between a document in the upper hierarchy layer and a document in the lower hierarchy layer, a document type definition file describing information on a version number of each document, and a document style sheet file defining a style of each document, where the document in the upper hierarchy layer is separate and distinct from the document in the lower hierarchy layer; and

a server connected to the storage unit and provided with a manager of the documents, the document retrieval instructions retrieving together, based on the management information, both the document in the upper hierarchy layer and the document in the lower hierarchy layer in a specified version number, from the document database;

wherein the management information includes a tag which instructs to overlay predetermined characters on the document, such that a printer at a client makes a hard copy of the retrieved document including the overlaid characters, when copying is selected at the client, when the document is determined to be printed according to importance thereof, and when the management information includes the tag.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer-readable recording medium with a document retrieval program recorded therein according to Claim 9; wherein the management information includes information indicating a collection of a plurality of documents in a same layer and a version number of each of the plurality of documents, and in the step described above, a plurality of documents on the same layer in a specified version number are retrieved from the document database according to the management information by accessing said server.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer-readable recording medium with a document retrieval program recorded therein according to Claim 9, wherein the management information includes information related to a security level corresponding to each of the plurality of documents, and in the step described above, the documents are retrieved from the document database according to a permission of retrieval corresponding to the security level.

12. (CANCELLED)

13. (NEW) An integrated document management system, comprising:

a storage unit which stores therein a document database comprising a plurality of documents that are files together forming a hierarchical structure comprising an upper hierarchy layer ranked below the upper hierarchy layer where document files, each containing a document, in the lower hierarchy are referenced above in the upper hierarchy layer, where the structure is defined with hypertext described in an extensible markup language (XML);

a management information database comprising management information comprising an XML file defining the hierarchical structure by indicating a relation between a document in the upper hierarchy layer and a document in the lower hierarchy layer, a document type definition file describing information on a version number of each document, and a document style sheet file defining a style of each document, where the document in the upper hierarchy layer is separate and distinct from the document in the lower hierarchy layer;

a server connected to said storage unit and provided with a manager of the documents;

a client connected via a network to said server and retrieves together, based on the management information, by accessing said server, both the document in the upper hierarchy layer and the document in the lower hierarchy layer each having a specified version number, from the database; and

a printer connected to the client, the printer making a hard copy of a document displayed at the client,

wherein the printer makes the hard copy of the document displayed at the client including overlaid predetermined characters, in response to a tag being included in the management information which instructs to overlay the predetermined characters on the document displayed at the client,

the management information includes information related to a security level corresponding to each of the plurality of documents and said server permits or inhibits retrieval of document according to the security level, and

the security level is dependent upon a pertinence determination level based on a predetermined rule.

14. (NEW) A document retrieval device used in an integrated document management system, comprising:

a storage unit which stores therein a document database comprising a plurality of documents that are files together forming a hierarchical structure comprising an upper hierarchy

layer ranked below the upper hierarchy layer where document files, each containing a document, in the lower hierarchy are referenced above in the upper hierarchy layer, where the structure is defined with hypertext described in an extensible markup language (XML);

a management information database comprising management information comprising an XML file defining the hierarchical structure by indicating a relation between a document in the upper hierarchy layer and a document in the lower hierarchy layer, a document type definition file describing information on a version number of each document, and a document style sheet file defining a style of each document, where the document in the upper hierarchy layer is separate and distinct from the document in the lower hierarchy layer; and

a server connected to said storage unit and provided with a manager of the documents, said document retrieval device retrieving together, based on the management information, both the document in the upper hierarchy layer and the document in the lower hierarchy layer in a specified version number from the document database;

wherein the management information includes a tag which instructs to overlay predetermined characters on the document, such that a printer at a client makes a hard copy of the retrieved document including the overlaid characters,

the management information includes information related to a security level corresponding to each of the plurality of documents, and the documents are retrieved from the document database according to a permission of retrieval corresponding to the security level, and

the security level is dependent upon a pertinence determination level based on a predetermined rule.

15. (NEW) A computer-readable recording medium storing document retrieval instructions used in an integrated document management system which, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to function as:

a storage unit which stores therein a document database comprising a plurality of documents that are files together forming a hierarchical structure comprising an upper hierarchy layer ranked below the upper hierarchy layer where document files, each containing a document, in the lower hierarchy are referenced above in the upper hierarchy layer, where the structure is defined with hypertext described in an extensible markup language (XML);

a management information database comprising management information comprising an XML file defining the hierarchical structure by indicating a relation between a document in the upper hierarchy layer and a document in the lower hierarchy layer, a document type definition file

describing information on a version number of each document, and a document style sheet file defining a style of each document, where the document in the upper hierarchy layer is separate and distinct from the document in the lower hierarchy layer; and

a server connected to the storage unit and provided with a manager of the documents, the document retrieval instructions retrieving together, based on the management information, both the document in the upper hierarchy layer and the document in the lower hierarchy layer in a specified version number from the document database,

wherein the management information includes a tag which instructs to overlay predetermined characters on the document, such that a printer at a client makes a hard copy of the retrieved document including the overlaid characters,

the management information includes information related to a security level corresponding to each of the plurality of documents, and the documents are retrieved from the document database according to a permission of retrieval corresponding to the security level, and

the security level is dependent upon a pertinence determination level based on a predetermined rule.